

Randy Ort
Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer



State Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class
Friday, February 26, 2021



3rd Largest State Agency
(approx. 3,700 Employees)

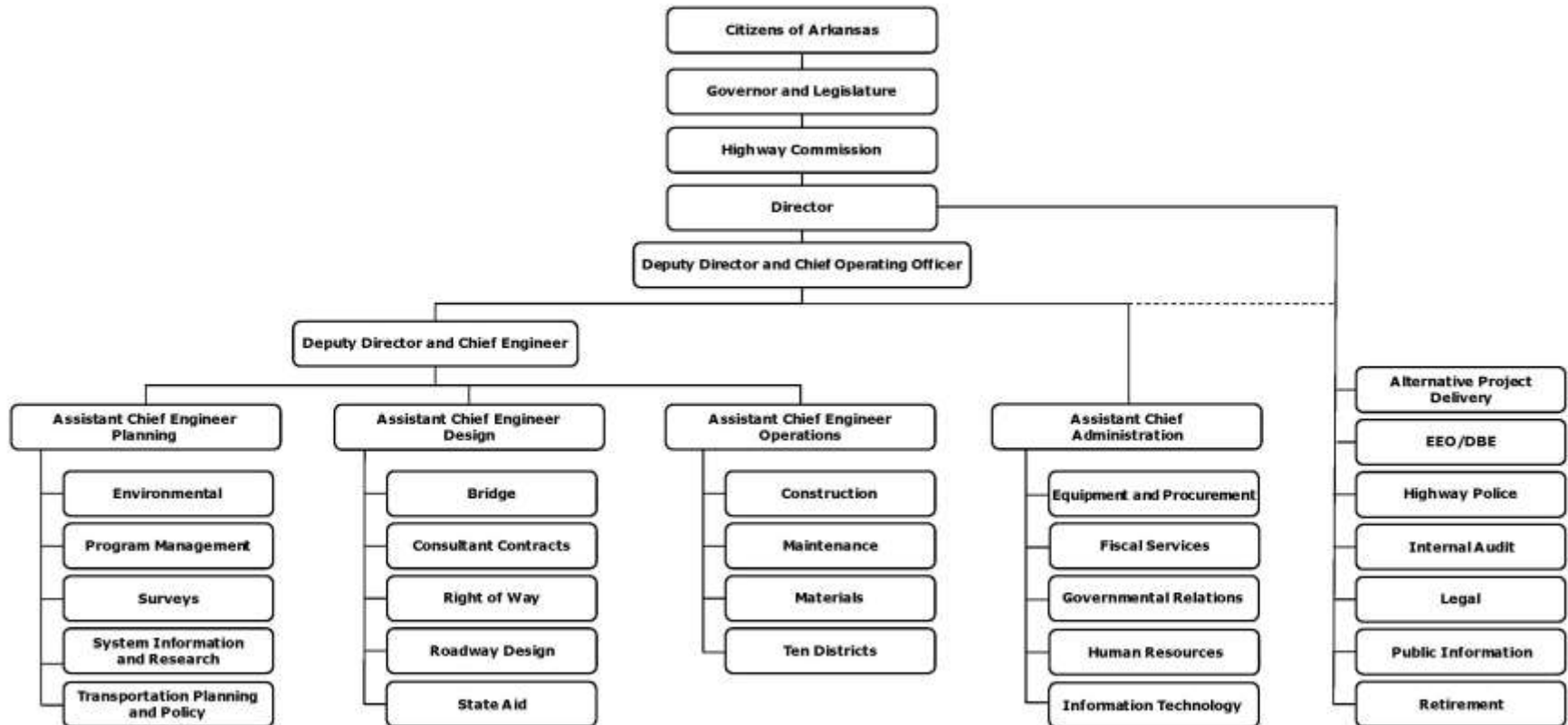
Maintains
16,418 miles of Highway
7,335 Bridges

Central Offices in Little Rock

10 Districts Statewide

Organization Chart

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION CHART

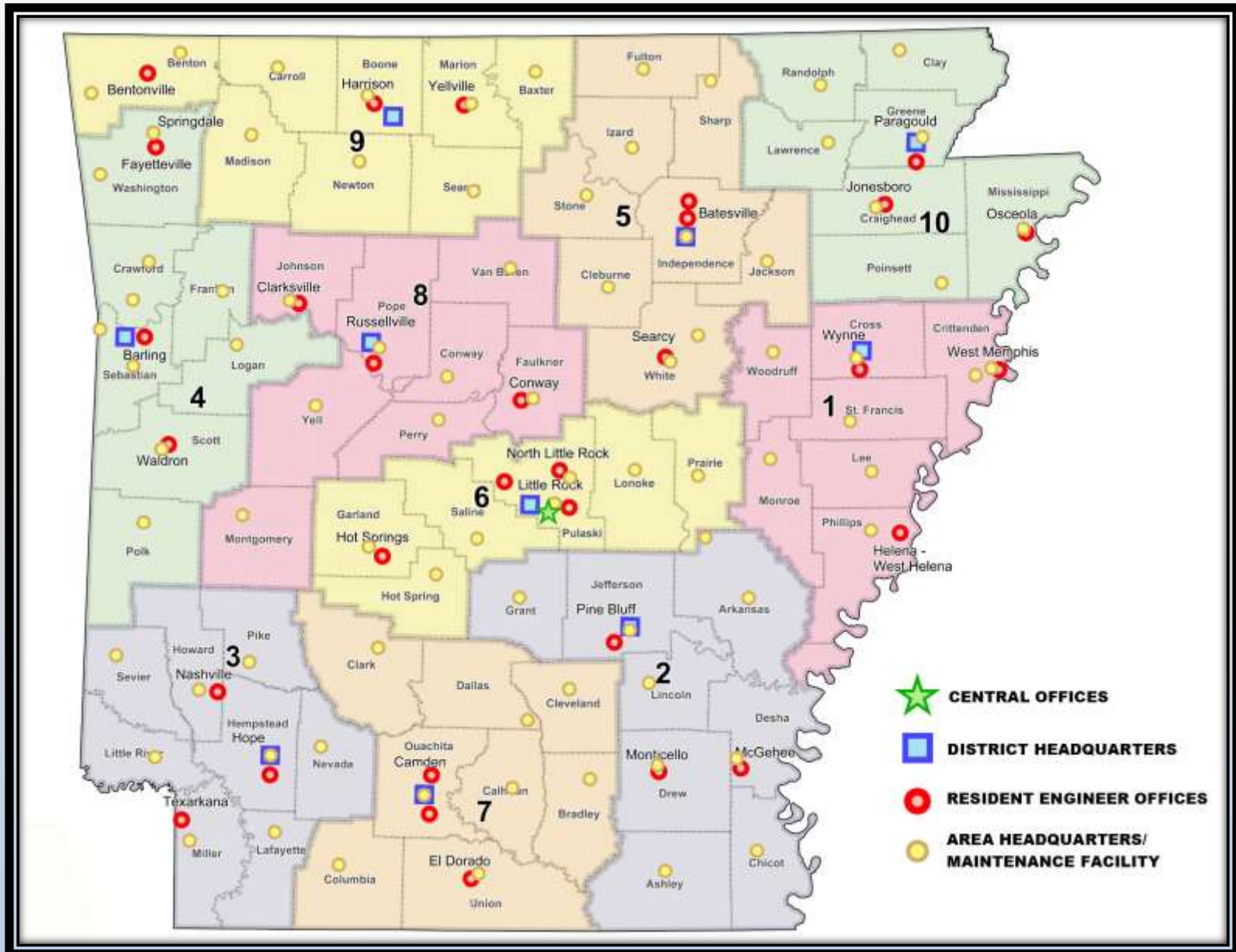


Jerie H. Tucker
Director

March 21, 2020

Date

Highway Districts



History



"We are always yapping about the 'Good Old Days' and how we look away back and enjoy it, but I tell you there is a lot of hooley to it."

– Will Rogers



The Teens

- ***First Commission Created***
 - ✓ ***No Hwy. Department***
 - ✓ ***No Hwy. System***
- ***3,600 Vehicles - \$72,000 Total Budget***
- ***36,000 Miles of Public Roads***

Highway 71 near Bella Vista

The Twenties



Repair Shop of State
Highway Department,
Little Rock, early 1930s



- **Highway System Created**
- **Highway Department Created**
- **First Gas Tax – 1 cent per gallon**
- **200,000 Vehicles/8,800 highway miles (1,400 Paved)**
- **Highway Commission Structure Changed Twice**

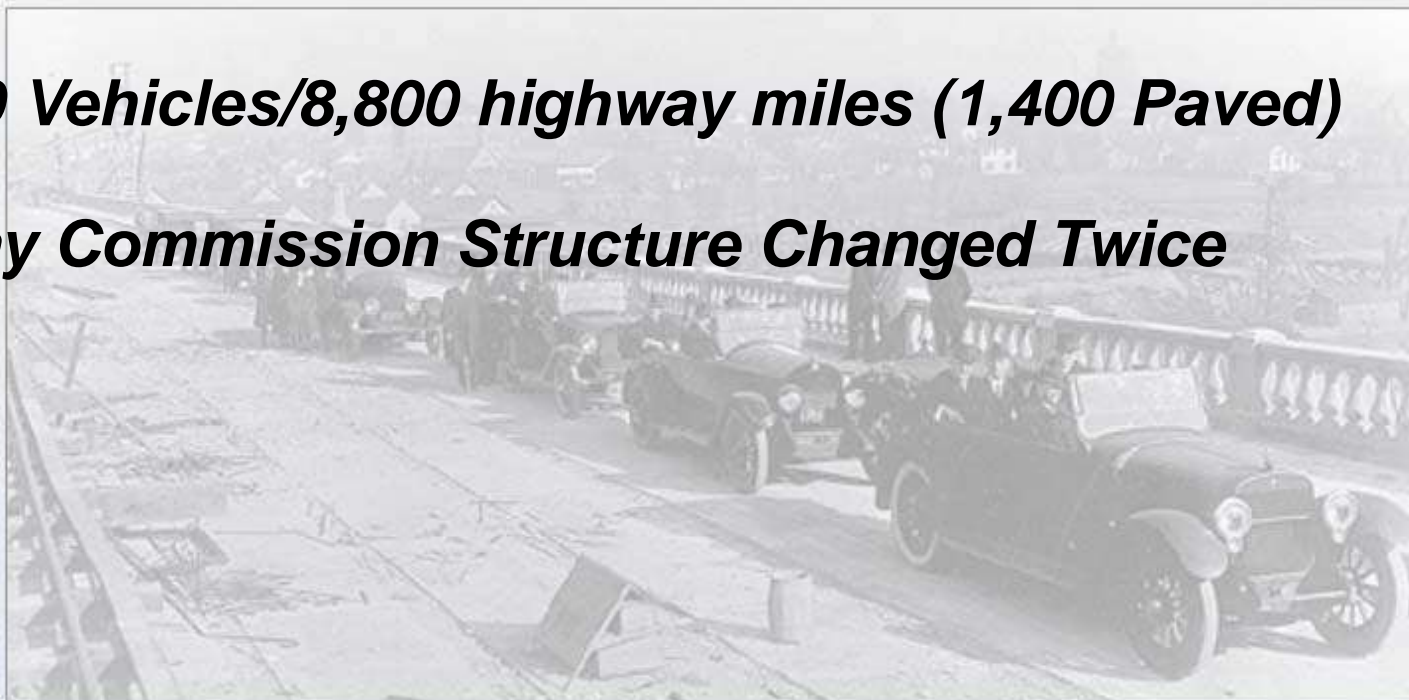
Highway Districts 1923



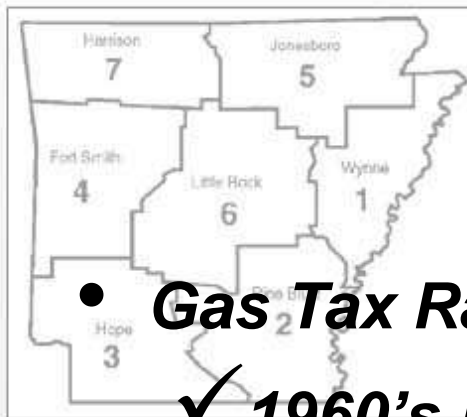
Highway Districts 1925



Broadway Bridge dedication,
1922. View is looking towards
North Little Rock



The Thirties



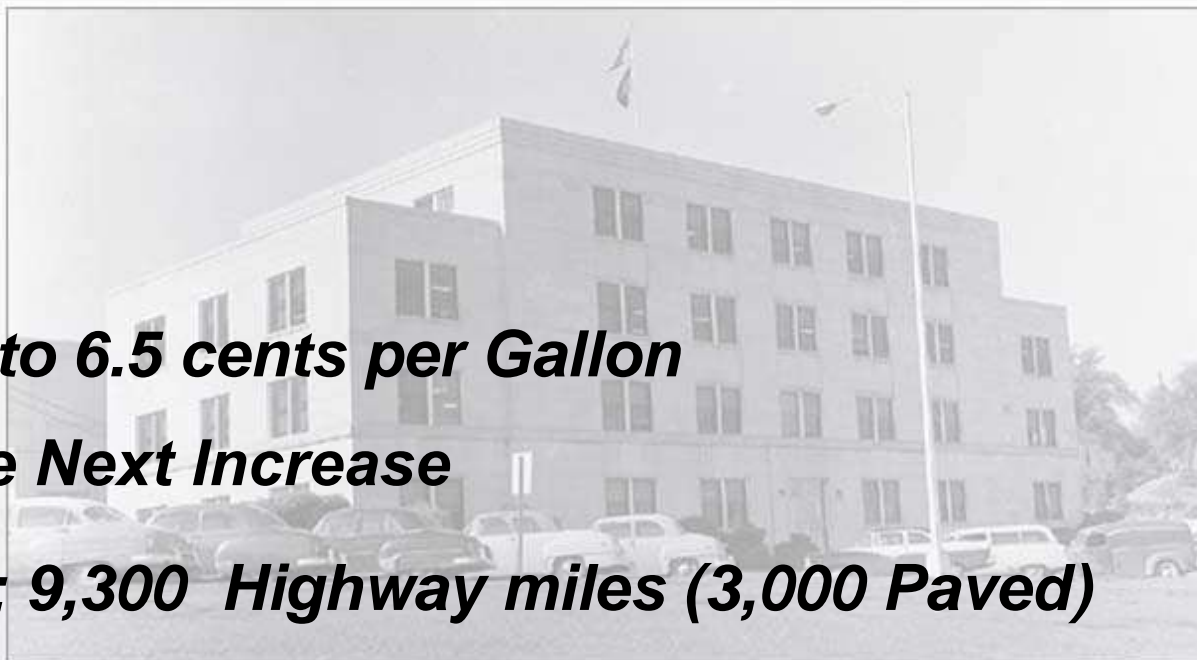
- **Gas Tax Raised to 6.5 cents per Gallon**

✓ **1960's Before Next Increase**

Magnet Truck. Picked up
an average of 20 lbs of
metal per mile

- **255,000 Vehicles; 9,300 Highway miles (3,000 Paved)**

- **Commission Structure Changed Two More Times**



State Highway Department HQ, 1939



The Forties

- ***World War II – Major Influence***
- ***455,000 Vehicles; 9,700 Highway Miles (4,900 Paved)***
- ***Commission Structure Changed Two More Times***
- ***Too much Political Influence on Highways***
– ***Growing Discontent***

Operation of the Henderson Ferry at Norfolk Lake cost \$117,981 for 1947-48. During this period 189,856 vehicles were ferried over at an average cost of 62¢ per vehicle.

Dillard's Ferry, a hand-cranked operation, crossed the Buffalo River at Highway 14 from 1929-1958.





- **1951 - Highway Audit Commission Report**

✓ *"the advice, counsel and expert know-how which is available from the Department's own technical and administrative staffs bear scant weight indeed when they are in conflict with the political pressures and political promises of the moment."*

- **9 Legislative Acts Restructured Commission since 1913**
- **1952 – Mack Blackwell Amendment**

Widening Hwy 67 near
Malvern, 1956



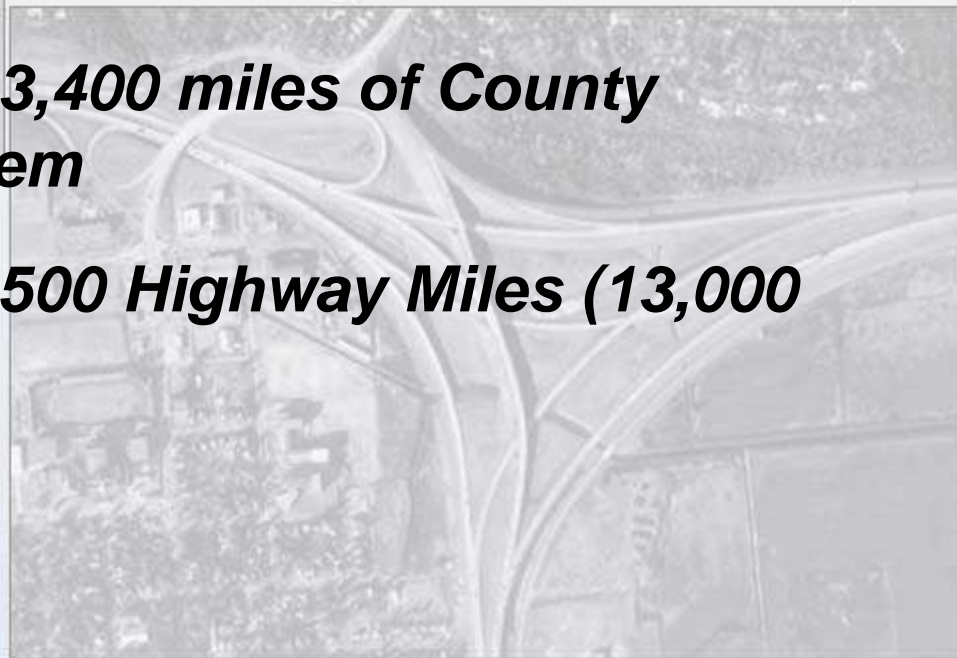
The Sixties

- ***No changes to Commission Structure***
- ***Arkansas - National Forefront in Interstate Construction/Completion***
- ***Legislature transferred 3,400 miles of County Roads to Highway System***
- ***1.1 million Vehicles; 14,500 Highway Miles (13,000 Paved)***

Highway
Department
Complex at I-30
/ Hwy 338, late
1960s



Weights & Standards Division, AHD



North Terminal Interchange, 1962

The Seventies

- ***Department became Debt Free***
- ***Legislature transferred nearly 1,000 more miles of County Roads to Highway System***
- ***Department adds “Transportation” to its name – Authority Expanded***
- ***1.7 million Vehicles; 16,000 Highway Miles (15,000 Paved)***



South Terminal Interchange



Atty. Lawrence Blackwell burning bonds at a ceremony in 1975.



Toad Suck Ferry on Arkansas River at Highway 60, 1970



I-430 River Bridge, 1973

The Eighties



- ***1985 - Rural Road Program – out of the mud***
- ***Early Retirements – huge workforce turnover***
- ***2.0 million Vehicles; 16,200 Highway Miles***

East-West Ariz. Bypass
linking Hwy 270 W and
Hwy 70 W in Hot
Springs.



Removal costs
reached \$4 M, 1984

Transportation Safety
Agency, 1989



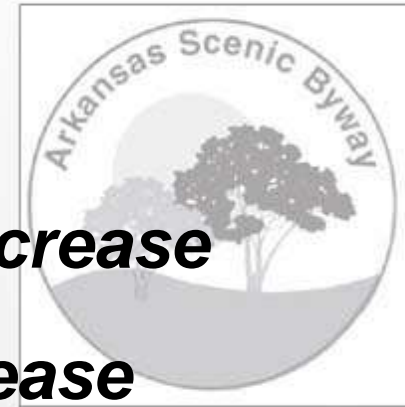
The Nineties

- **1993 – Last Federal Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Last State Gas Tax Increase**
- **1999 – Interstate Rehabilitation Program –**
First highway bond issue in 50 years

1991 Highway Improvement Program planned to improve or replace approximately 560 bridges.

- **I-540 (now I-49) and I-530 completed**
- **2.1 million Vehicles; 16,400 Highway Miles**

Dedication of I-540 and Bobby
Hopper Tunnel, 1999



Section of Hwy 7

Arkansas Scenic
Byway of Arkansas.



The New Millennium

- **2011 – 2nd Interstate Rehabilitation Program**
- **2012 – Connecting Arkansas Program**

Winter Weather in Dec 2000 and Jan 2001 cost almost \$40 M.

- **Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding**

- **3.0 million Vehicles; 16,400 miles State Highways**



New White River Bridge on Hwy 64 at Augusta opened in 2001.





Philip Taldo

Alec Farmer
Vice-Chairman

Marie Holder

Robert Moore
Chairman

Keith Gibson

Funding



Challenges



➤ **12th** largest system in the country

➤ **41st** in highway revenue per mile





The Problem

- Flat Revenues
- Inflation

Temporary Solutions

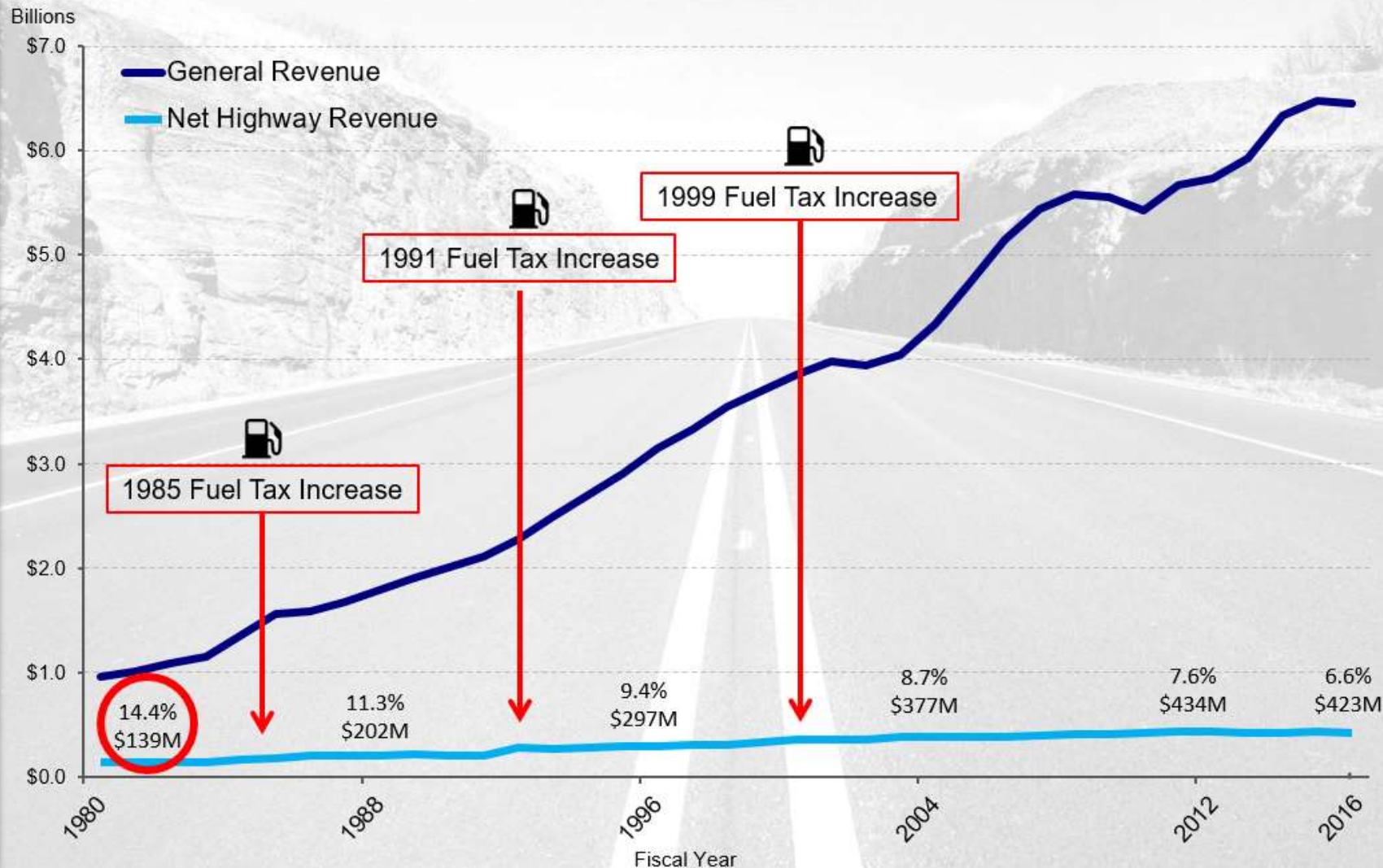
- 2010 Blue Ribbon Committee Report
- 2017 Governor's Working Group

Permanent Solution

- 2019 Governor's Long Term Funding Plan



Funding Troubles, Soon to Improve



Excludes County & City Aid funds | Excludes CAP funds

\$10,000,000 Overlay Program

THEN

In 1998, **200 lane miles** of highway could be overlaid with \$10 million.

NOW

In 2018, **90 lane miles** of highway could be overlaid with \$10 million.



The Problem

- Flat Revenues
- Inflation



Temporary Solutions

- 2010 Blue Ribbon Committee Report
- 2017 Governor's Working Group

Permanent Solution

- 2019 Governor's Long Term Funding Plan

Current Connecting Arkansas Program

Voter Approved in 2012

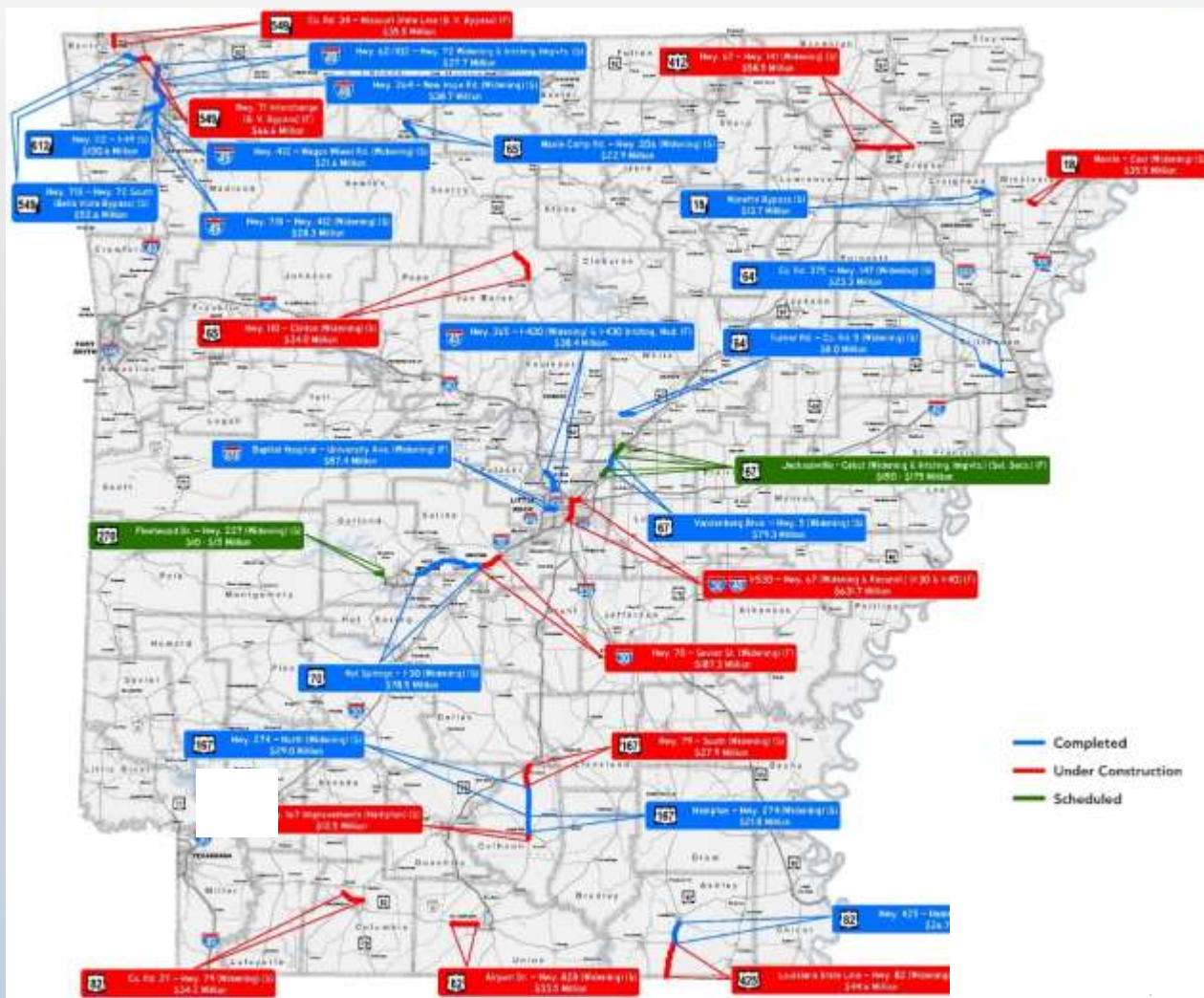
Provides Temporary Half-Cent Sales Tax

Expires June 2023



ARDOT's Revenue
Dedicated to the
Connecting
Arkansas
Program

Current Connecting Arkansas Program



Completed

Number of Projects:	17
Miles:	89
Amount (Millions):	\$699

Under Construction

Number of Projects:	12
Miles:	72
Amount (Millions):	\$1,839

Scheduled

Number of Projects:	2
Miles:	7
Amount (Millions):	\$170

Total Program

Number of Projects:	31
Miles:	168
Amount (Millions):	\$2,009

Current Connecting Arkansas Program

Highway 70 Widening
Garland and Saline Counties



Current Connecting Arkansas Program

Future US Hwy 412 - Springdale Bypass

Benton County



Current Connecting Arkansas Program

Highway 167 Widening
Calhoun County



connectingarkansasprogram.com

The Problem

- Flat Revenues
- Inflation

Temporary Solutions

- 2010 Blue Ribbon Committee Report
- 2017 Governor's Working Group

Permanent Solution

- 2019 Governor's Long Term Funding Plan



November 3, 2020

The Ballot Question: Issue 1

FOR



*Funding from current
sales tax continues
after June 2023*

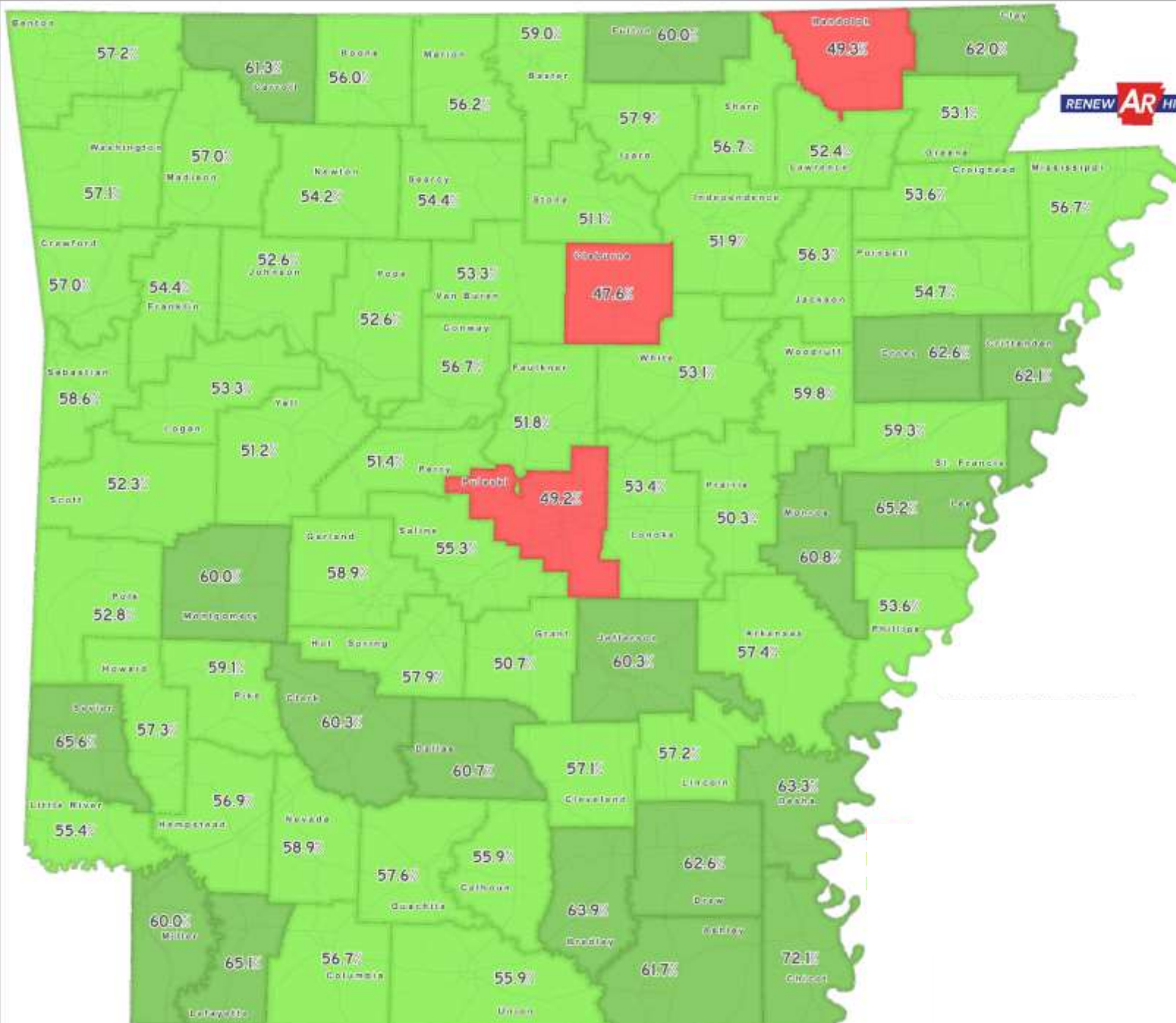
AGAINST



*Funding from current
sales tax ends in June
2023*

ISSUE 1 RESULTS BY COUNTY 2020

RENEW **AR** HIGHWAYS





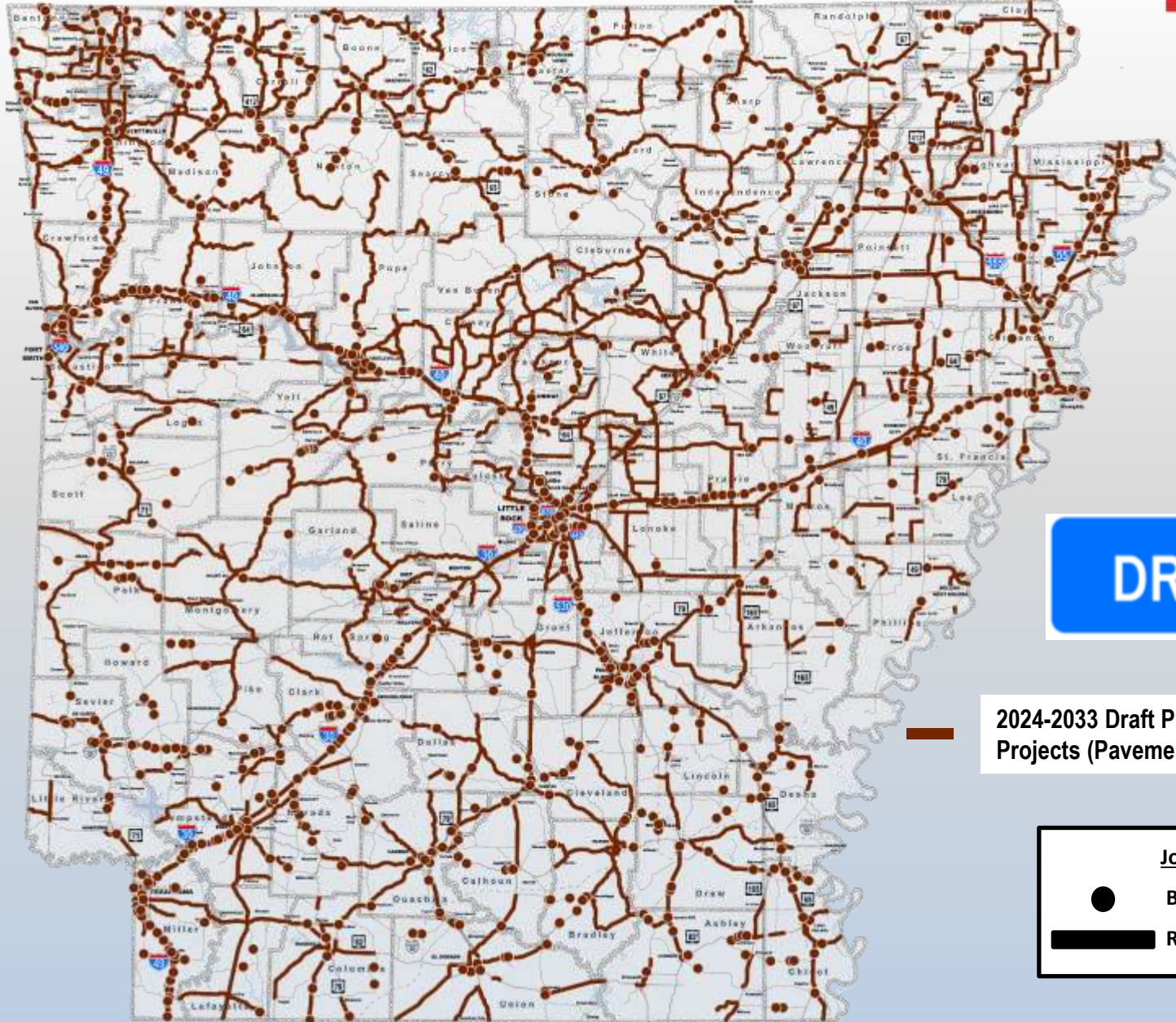
2012 Versus 2020

	2012	2020
For	58.2% 597,215	55.3% 659,325
Against	41.8% 428,745	44.7% 532,576
Total Votes	1,025,960	1,191,901
Failed – Less than 50%	7	3
Passed – Greater than 50%	68	72
Passed – 50% – 60%	41	53
Passed – 60% or More	27	19

What Will Issue 1 Do?

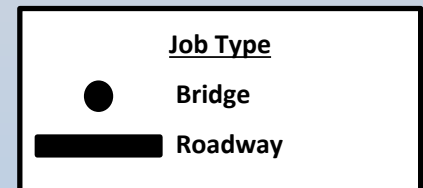
- 0.5% Sales Tax Permanent
- Highways, Roads and Bridges
- Not on Food, Motor Fuels, Prescription Meds
- 70% (\$206 Million) State Highways
- 15% (\$44 Million) County Transportation
- 15% (\$44 Million) City Transportation

Every Arkansan Will Benefit!

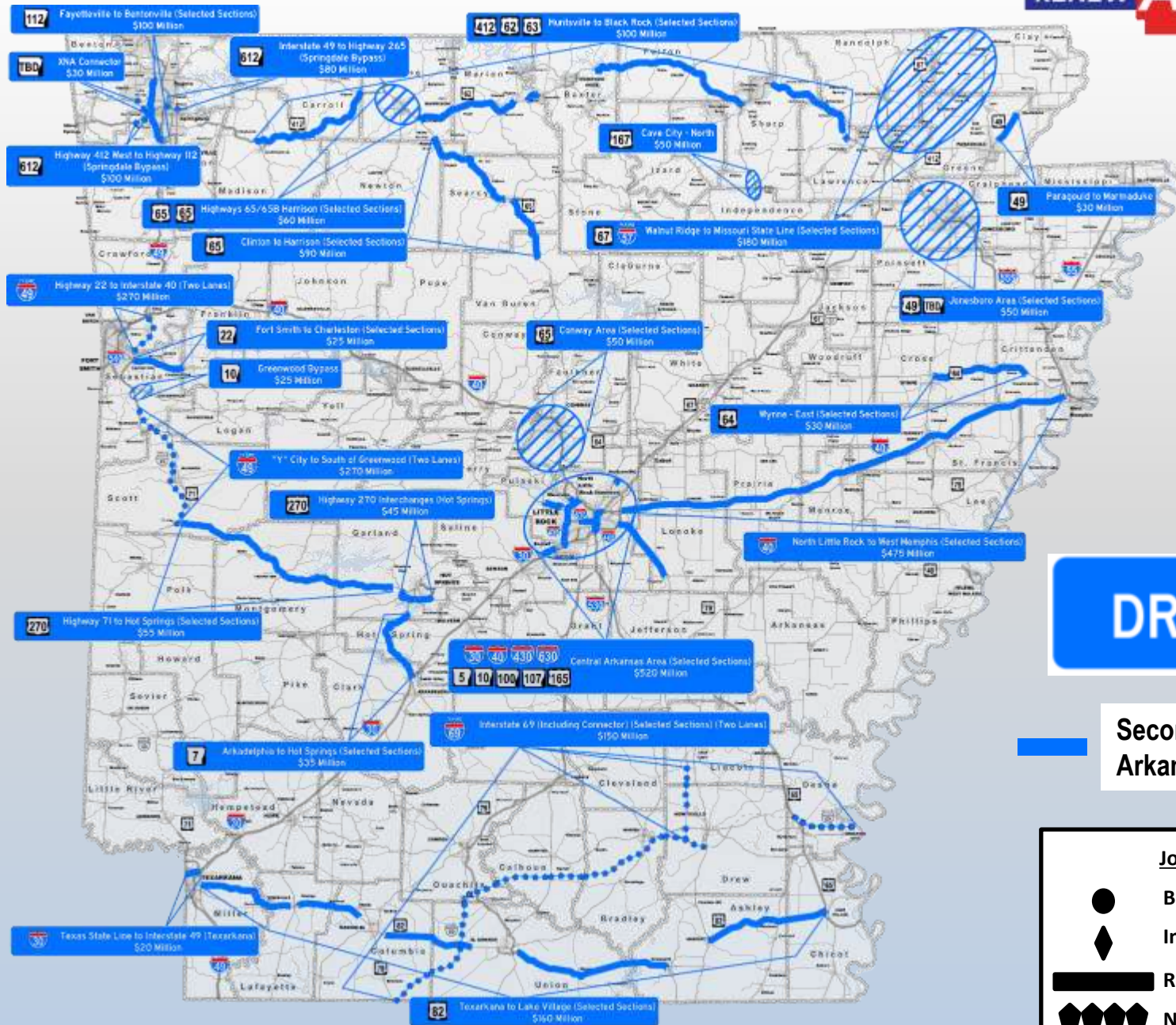


DRAFT

2024-2033 Draft Program of Preservation Projects (Pavement & Bridges)



Second Connecting Arkansas Program



DRAFT

Second Connecting Arkansas Program

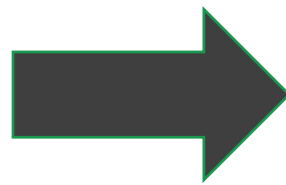
Job Type

- Bridge
- ◆ Interchange
- ▬ Roadway
- ◆◆◆◆ New Location

National Highway Performance & Cost Effectiveness Ranking



2016:
32nd



2018:
9th

Reason Foundation's 24th and 25th Annual Highway Report Rankings

Categories	2016-2017	2018-2019
Maintenance Disbursements Per Mile	11	6
Urban Interstate Pavement Condition	44	34
Urban Arterial Pavement Condition	38	19
Rural Interstate Pavement Condition	40	35
Rural Arterial Pavement Condition	44	27

National Highway Performance & Cost Effectiveness Ranking

Categories	2016-2017	2018-2019
Urbanized Area Congestion	13	12
Structurally Deficient Bridges	17	11
Overall Fatality Rate	45	39
Rural Fatality Rate	39	40
Urban Fatality Rate	46	46
Overall Highway Performance	32	9



Discussion Time





Class Exercise

